

August 2012



## Kansas FSA Updates

DEAR PRODUCERS: Welcome to the new Gov Delivery bulletins and updates service from the Kansas FSA State Office. Note that you are welcome to request to receive bulletins from more than one county and can add or remove individual subscriptions at any time.

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Farm Service Agency**

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### KANSAS COUNTIES MEET CRP EMERGENCY HAYING AND GRAZING REQUIREMENTS

In Kansas, all Counties are eligible for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) emergency haying and grazing because of the new provisions announced by Secretary Vilsack on July 23, 2012.

In addition to the 25 percent CRP payment reduction being reduced to 10 percent for all 2012 emergency haying and grazing authorizations, participants may now sell the harvested hay or lease grazing privileges for profit under the new emergency provisions. However, subleasing of the grazing privileges will not be permitted and participants are limited to one hay cutting.

Kansas CRP participants who were previously approved for managed haying or grazing may elect to switch to emergency use by contacting the local County FSA office to request approval.

Eligible CRP land can be used for emergency haying until August 31, 2012, or emergency grazing until September 30, 2012. Please contact your local FSA to request emergency haying or grazing approval. Eligible producers must also obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

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### FSA EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

USAJOBS is the U.S. Government's official site for jobs and hiring information. All permanent positions with the FSA are announced and posted through USAJOBS. Applicants have the opportunity to apply for vacancies using the USAJOBS online functionality or an alternate fax submission process. Any persons interested in employment opportunities with FSA can research those opportunities by accessing [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov), searching for positions, creating an account and submitting the required application documents. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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## **MOST KANSAS COUNTIES ELIGIBLE FOR FSA EMERGENCY LOANS**

As of July 12, 2012 and continuing most Kansas counties have been declared a disaster using the new, streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process.

The disaster designation was a direct result of several program improvements announced by Secretary Vilsack on July 11, 2012. The program improvements include a streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process that automatically qualifies a disaster county once it is categorized as a severe drought for eight weeks according to the U.S Drought Monitor. Other improvements include a reduced interest rate for emergency loans that lowers the rate from 3.75 percent to 2.25 percent. Eligible producers can apply for low-interest emergency (EM) loans.

Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, wildfires, flooding and other natural disasters. To be eligible for an emergency disaster loan, an applicant must be operating a family size farm or ranch, must be unable to get credit elsewhere, and must have suffered a qualifying physical and/or production loss from the disaster.

Producers have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for emergency loan assistance. Emergency loan applications will be accepted through March 12, 2013, for production and physical losses.

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## **HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND INITIATIVE SIGN-UP**

The Highly Erodible Land Initiative sign-up under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began on July 23, 2012. The purpose of this initiative is to protect up to 28,000 acres of Kansas most highly erodible croplands. Producers may enroll at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. Enrollment will continue until the 28,000 acre limit is reached or September 30, 2012, whichever occurs first.

CRP is a voluntary program designed to help farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers protect their environmentally sensitive land. Through this Highly Erodible Land Initiative, eligible landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible cropland for a period of 10 years. Croplands with an erodibility index of 20 or greater are eligible for enrollment. CRP acres that expire on September 30, 2012, are also eligible for enrollment.

For more information producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/crp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp)

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## **VETERAN FARMERS PROJECT**

The Veteran Farmers Project provides veterans with the business and agriculture education to help them become successful farmers. The project enables veterans to learn from experts through workshops, farm tours, individual consultations, and a helpline.

- Nebraska Workshop  
August 17, 2012, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - North Platte Resources District
- Nebraska Farm Tours  
August 17, 2012 – Scottsbluff Area
- Kansas Farm Tours  
September 19-20, 2012 – Atwood/St. Francis Area

For more information on workshops and farm tours visit  
[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/veteranfarmers.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/veteranfarmers.pdf)

For information on the Veteran Farmers Project visit [http://www.cfra.org/veteran\\_farmers\\_project](http://www.cfra.org/veteran_farmers_project)

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## **NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE DEADLINE**

September 1, is the application closing date for certain crops under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Crops eligible for NAP benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber.

September 1 is the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain NAP coverage for Aquaculture, Canola, Christmas Trees, Nursery Crops, Turf Grass Sod, and all Small Grain Crops, except Oats. Continuous Crop Wheat planted with the intention of harvesting as grain is not eligible for NAP.

The administrative service fee is \$250 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$750 per producer per administrative county and a \$1875 maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline.

This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50 percent production loss or greater of an eligible crop.

In the unfortunate event that a producer does suffer a loss on their particular crop, a form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, must be filed with FSA within 15 calendar days after the disaster occurrence, or the date the loss becomes apparent to the producer.

Producers are limited to \$100,000 in benefits per person per crop year, they must certify crop acres by applicable deadlines, maintain production evidence for 3 years, have less than \$500,000 Non-farm Adjusted Gross Income, and must comply with conservation compliance provisions in order to be eligible.

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## **KANSAS AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION SERVICES PROVIDES RESOURCES TO DEAL WITH DROUGHT IMPACT**

With the ongoing effects of the drought many Kansas farmers and ranchers will need help in making some very difficult decisions about their farm and ranch enterprises, including: changes or reductions in operations; restructure or refinance of loans and accounts; and strategic planning to be sustainable and profitable. The Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services (KAMS) has been assisting the Kansas agricultural community for 24 years in making informed and well thought out decisions about the future of their operations.

KAMS is a program within K-State Research and Extension that provides confidential information and services. Through a toll-free hotline (1-800-321-3276) producers have access to guidance, information, and referrals to helpful professionals. Farm financial counseling is available through the K-State Research and Extension Farm Analyst Program with low cost on-farm analysis. Direct legal assistance is provided under the Farm Mediation Legal Counseling Program through Kansas Legal Services, Inc., at an affordable rate. In many cases KAMS' financial and legal counselors help clients resolve issues without the need for mediation. If necessary, KAMS provides specially trained ag mediators to help resolve conflicts and disputes impeding good business decisions.

To learn more call 1-800-321-3276, or explore KAMS' website at <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/kams/>

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## **KANSAS CONSERVATION AND USDA PARTNERSHIP, MAKING HISTORY IN KANSAS**

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Peoples Department, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, established by President Abraham Lincoln on May 15, 1862. To honor that milestone at the Kansas State Fair, September 7-16, 2012, several conservation agencies and organizations chose the theme of Kansas Conservation and USDA Partnerships, Making History in Kansas. The booth is located across from the butter sculpture in the Pride of Kansas building.

Fairgoers interested in natural resources conservation need to plan to stop at this booth and visit with conservationists, program specialists, foresters, and others. Learn about each agency's or organization's programs and how you can use them. When you stop by the booth, ask for an educator packet loaded with information about a variety of natural resources, posters that will brighten bulletin boards and coloring books that help young ones learn about natural resources. Try the trivia board and learn more about Kansas conservation of natural resources. Don't forget to browse the publications for information about trees, conservation programs in Kansas, and more. Take time to sign up for a chance to win a rain gauge. One is given away each day.

Those hosting the booth will be—The Kansas Conservation Partnership that includes the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD), and the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture (DOC). The Kansas Forest Service (KFS) and the Kansas Forestry Association/Tree Farm Organization will be joining the group again. Farm Service Agency (FSA) will join the group for the first time.

### Special Conservation Educational and Entertaining Events

- The Soil Guys—Mr. Soil and Clod, performances September 10, 11, 13, and 14, 11 to 11:30 a.m., Bretz Law Arena. Learn about soil in an entertaining and educational program. Click here to learn more.
- The Soil Tunnel Trailer, Ag in the Classroom, September 7-16, Pride of Kansas Building. The trailer brings the world of soil to life. View the natural history of soil with 3-D worms, roots, other organisms, and much more. Visit <http://www.soiltunneltrailer.com/> for a brochure.

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For more information on bulletin subjects or details regarding your Gov Delivery subscription with the Kansas FSA State Office, contact Rachel Jones at [rachel.jones@ks.usda.gov](mailto:rachel.jones@ks.usda.gov) or phone 785-539-3531.

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